

REMARKS

As noted, with appreciation, the Examiner has indicated that claims 9-12 have been allowed.

Claim 1 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Barinaga, U.S. Patent No. 6,030,074. Also, claims 7 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barinaga in view of Trafton et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,554,402. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As will be noted by the Examiner, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2, and correspondingly, claim 2 has been canceled from the present application. Claim 5 has been canceled from the present application and replaced by newly added claim 14, newly added claim 14 representing a combination of original claim 1 and claim 5.

Claim 6 has been canceled from the present application and replaced with newly added claim 15, claim 15 representing the combination of original claim 1 and the subject matter of claim 6.

Claim 8 has been canceled from the present application and replaced with newly added claim 16, claim 16 representing the combination of original claim 1 and the subject matter of claim 8.

Claim 13 has been canceled from the present application and replaced with newly added claim 17, claim 17 representing the combination of original claim 1 and the subject matter of claim 13.

Since the Examiner has indicated that claims 9-12 are presently allowed and since all of the claims objected to have been rewritten in independent form, it is now believed that the present application containing claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9-12 and 14-17 is now in condition for allowance and accordingly an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

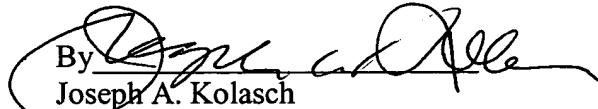
Application No. 10/606,839
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Docket No.: 0142-0408P
Page 7 of 7

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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